(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) No such decision has been taken by the Government of India.

(i) Does not arise.

[English]

Oriental Finance and Exchange Company

1587. DR. M. JAGANNATH :

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any compensation has been paid to the depositors till now who had been defrauded of crores of rupees in 1987 by the Oriental Finance and Exchange Company (H.O. Madras);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the action taken against the directors of the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that as per their records, a large number of cases were filed by the aggrieved creditors (depositors) of Oriental Finance and Exchange Company in different courts, including an insolvency petition involving Shri Sajan Varghese, Managing Partner of the said firm. The affairs of the firm were entrusted to a Receiver through a court order. RBI have no information about payment of compensation if any, made to depositors.

[Translation]

Bank Draft Facility Between India and USA

1588. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agreement on draft issuing service by banks between India and America has been granted approval;

(b) if so, the main details of the agreement; and

(c) by when the said agreement is likely to be more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Correspondent relationships relating to issue of drafts by banks is a matter between the banks concerned and not between countries.

(b) and (c) : Do not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above.

[English]

Gold used for Jewellery

1589. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gold used for jewellery manufacture in India does not exactly confine to the normal prescribed standard for gold;

(b) whether there is some foul play with customers by traders; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to correct this mischief by the traders across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Special Plan to Promote KVICs

1590. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission have introduced any special plan to promote Khadi and Village Industries in the country during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds sanctioned by the Commission to the States during the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the KVIC has relaxed norms for sanctioning the loans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Khadi and Village Industries Commission is continuing its various special schemes (Rural Employment Generation Programme) consisting of District Special Employment Programme, National Projects, 125 Block Development Programme, Thrust Areas Scheme etc. during the year 1997-98.

(c) and (d) There is no relaxation in terms for sanctioning loans. However, disbursements made by KVIC during 1996-97 to its implementing agencies with State-wise break up are given inthe Statement attached.